THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement in the case of Civil Appeal Nos. 6009-6010/2001-Steel Authority of India Ltd. and others V/s National Union Water Front Workers and others dated 30.8.2001, laid down the criteria that the Central Government is the appropriate Government under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for Central Government Company/Undertaking or any other Undertaking included in Clause (a) of Section 2 of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, any industry carried on by or under the authority of Central Government (such an authority may be conferred either by a Statute or by virtue of a relationship of principal and agent or by delegation of power), or Railway Company or specified controlled industry. Otherwise in relation to any other establishment, the State Government will be the appropriate Government. On the receipt of said judgement the clarification letters were issued by Ministry of Labour to all State Governments on 19.4.2002, clarifying the appropriate Government under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in respect of Central Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Exploitation of beedi workers in U.P.

3060. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether beedi workers in Uttar Pradesh are being exploited and the relevant laws are being flouted by the proprietors with impunity in collusion with official machinery;

(b) whether there are malpractices in the medical facilities for beedi workers; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Government have enacted the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act 1966, to protect the beedi workers from exploitation by employers. The Act is applicable to all the States and UTs including U.P. and is enforced by State Governments. The State Government has denied any exploitation of beedi workers in Uttar Pradesh by flouting of relevant laws by the proprietors in collusion with official machinery.

(b) and (c) No such incident has been reported.

Retrenchment of workers by privatised PSUs

3061. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a large number of complaints towards retrenchment of workers by some privatized Public Sector Undertaking Companies; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for reversing growing unemployment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) During a meeting of the Hon'ble Prime Minister with Central Trade Unions on 18th October, 2002, some of the trade union leaders had raised the issue of retrenchment in some privatized PSUs. In view of this a team of officials is being sent to these privatized PSUs to assess the impact of disinvestment on Labour.

While employment opportunities in some traditional industries may have decreased, those have increased in many upcoming areas such as Information Technology, Tourism, Financial Services, Construction, etc. Accordingly, the growth strategy of the Tenth Plan lays emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities.

Kendriya Bhandar

†3062 SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to divide Kendriya Bhandar in to different categories to extending its outlets and to improve its level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) In order to attract more customers and increase sales,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.